

"To care for him who has been the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

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It is a comfort to know that Brethitt County, Ky., gave Bryan 724 majority.

The Annual Encampment of the Department of West Virginia, G. A. R., has unanimously endorsed the \$12 per month service pension bill.

KANSAS has had a suit pending in the Supreme Court for some time, to restrain Colorado from taking so much water from the Arkansas River. Why wasn't she smart enough to sue out an injunction to restrain Colorado from emptying so much into the head waters of the Kaw River?

APPARENTLY the day of canals is dawning again. New York contemplates spending \$100,000,000 in the improvement of the Erie Canal, and the Ohio Republican Convention declared in favor of "modernizing" the magnificent canal system of that State, so as to make it efficient for transportation.

THIS seems to be a year for good Commanders in the G. A. R. The Department of Missouri has elected Frank M. Sterrett, Post 1, St. Louis. Comrade Sterrett is well known throughout the Order for his good works, and did particularly well as Adjutant-General for Commander-in-Chief Rassieur.

AT THE ANNUAL Encampment of the Department of Kentucky the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the comrades of this Department heartily endorse The National Tribune service pension bill of \$12 per month for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who served 90 days or more in the war of the rebellion, and to the widows of all such soldiers, sailors and marines."

THE world do move. North Carolina has forgotten the race troubles and the "domination of the negro" long enough to inform us that she has discovered an immense deposit of tin in her mountains. If the North Carolinians can only get their eyes off the eternal negro and the perennial Lost Cause for a little while, they will discover other resources which will make the State as wealthy as Pennsylvania.

MAJ.-GEN. ALEXANDER McD. MCCOOK, U. S. A., retired, was stricken with apoplexy last week, and is lying in a very critical condition at Dayton, O. His death is expected at any time. Gen. McCook, who played so large a part in the history of the Army of the Cumberland until the battle of Chickamauga, has made his residence in Washington, but went to Dayton on a visit. He was retired April 22, 1895.

GOV. VAN SANT, of Minnesota, has decided that he will not be a candidate for re-election, and will retire from politics at the close of his present term. He feels that his public career properly closed with his successful fight against the mergers in which the United States Supreme Court sustained the principle he advocated. It is hardly likely the people of Minnesota will suffer him to retire, for he has proven himself too valuable a man to be lost to the public service.

COMRADE STEPHEN M. LONG'S Post, at Orange, N. J., unanimously endorsed him for Commander of the Department, and instructed all the comrades to do whatever was possible to secure his election. He has been an earnest member of the Post since 1882, and has done a world of good work for it, as has the National Association of Ex-prisoners of War, of which he has been Adjutant-General for many years.

AFTER having to labor with unusual difficulties and embarrassments, Post Adjutant-General Silas H. Towler has at length gotten out the report of the proceedings of the 29th National Encampment, and the book is in very good shape. The matter has been properly arranged, being well classified, a good report made of the proceedings of the National Encampment, and a very comprehensive index helps one to find at once whatever he may desire. In every way the work is very creditable to Comrade Towler, who thus crowns a very satisfactory administration of the Adjutant-General's office.

STILL ANOTHER WAR GOVERNOR.

Comrade Hugh Hall, 22d Wis., Columbus, Wis., reminds us that there is another War Governor yet living than those who have been mentioned. Ex-Governor James T. Lewis, who is now upwards of 85 years, still lives at his home in Columbus, Wis., and is able to ride out in pleasant weather. His mind is as active as it was 40 years ago. Gov. Lewis was a member of the Territorial Convention which formed the Constitution for the admission of Wisconsin, Dec. 15, 1847. He held a number of prominent offices in the new State, and was finally elected Governor in 1863 by the largest majority ever given for Governor. Since his retirement from the office he has not engaged in politics, though he has been a lifelong Republican.

Comrade O. M. Dering writes of him: "He has always been one of the best friends the G. A. R. boys of Wisconsin ever had. He is quite feeble, and owing to a fall a couple of years ago, he is obliged to use crutches, but he comes down after his mail in his carriage almost every day. He does not seem to have any idea of giving up yet, and we all hope he will be with us for many days."

DISTRIBUTION OF PENSIONS.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I read four several articles describing the general benefits to the country through the widespread distribution of the annual pension money. You are laying special stress upon the fact that these payments prevent an undue accumulation of funds at the Eastern money centers, while the other three-fourths of the \$900,000,000 gathered by the Government yearly in the shape of taxes and revenues, and spent for various purposes, are said to be flowing directly back into the coffers of the capitalists and corporations of Wall Street, without doing any good to the people at large. This view seems to me to be erroneous. There is, in fact, very little difference in the manner of distribution and circulation of all the funds collected and disbursed by the Government through its various departments.

That every dollar expended is for value received or services rendered we may presume.

The disbursements for civil service, army and navy, rivers and harbors, post-office and internal on the public debt, differ only in so far from the pensions paid to soldiers of the civil war and their dependents, that the former pay the current expenses of the Government, while the latter represent individual claims for services rendered and losses sustained many years ago.

Their effect on the business situation of the country is, however, the same, and in proportion to the respective amounts.

That the bulk of these disbursements should finally go to the money centers, where the banking and transportation interests transact their business and make their settlements, is only natural and necessary, as they are the means for keeping the wheels of industry in shop and field going. As the heart drives the life-giving blood through the body, so bring about the daily requirements of the general business of the country, a constant intercourse, which is greatly facilitated by the use of money in exchange.

There may be an occasional clashing of these interests as each one is trying to guard his own pocket, but, on the whole, all thrive best when a decent regard for the common good is observed all around. Our resources in ready money are very large, but compared with the great volume of business transacted, they are a small fraction, and were it possible for any clique to stop their free circulation only temporarily, it would lead to most serious consequences.

It is true that conditions arise with us from time to time, when the business is exhausted by over-speculation, and an unreasonable expansion seeks a more or less violent readjustment to existing facts and circumstances, which create for a time a panicky feeling. This, however, can only occur after the general business situation has become bad, and not through mere machinations of speculative cliques, who, as a rule, mainly feed on their own kind.

When we consider the enormous volume of appropriations amounting to about \$120,000,000 during the two years term of one Congress, we can readily see the great influence of its legislation on the business affairs of a Nation, and the most conservative course seems to be essential to prevent a serious crisis.

The annual budget must be adjusted to steer clear of a large surplus or a big deficit, a most difficult matter to arrange successfully. The danger of possible mistakes in this direction is so great that the Government could be legally kept as deposits in banks instead of being locked up in the vaults of the Treasury, where they are not accessible for business purposes.

If I have, therefore, argued against the view that the distribution of pensions is in itself a benefit to the country, because, as is said, that it especially affords the means to keep money in circulation which might otherwise congest and be dormant at financial centers, I did not mean to dispute in the least the justice and equity of pensioning our veterans or their dependents; on the contrary, I considered their claim upon the gratitude of the country as one of the noblest and most facts and immortal deeds that they can well afford to dispense using a mere incidental circumstance as a favorable argument.

The country is indebted to the soldiers for risking their lives and welfare and their families at a time when the Nation's very existence was trembling in the balance. A terrible war of four years' duration, full of untold suffering and misery, decided the issue.

As a result, people inaugurated a system of pension payments for the victorious soldiers of the Republic as the best means to pay a debt which could never be computed in dollars and cents at a fair rate, without swamping the resources of the country with a great burden which the country can not carry without staggering under the load.

A nation is but a composite of many families. Take an average family, and you will find the children and the adults and the labor of the adult vigorous man and the care of the housewife, whose terms of usefulness are ordinarily limited to 25 or 30 years. During this period he does all the substantial work and accumulates wealth, if the chances are favorable, bring up their children and repay their indebtedness to their parents incurred when they were still young. This is simply every day life, and the substantial rule, wherever the family ties are kept sacred, and duty and love go hand in hand. Neither parent nor child, if true, will ever find it a burden to provide for and minister to the wants of their loved ones.

If this is good and the true course for a family to pursue, why should it not apply with equal force to a nation—especially after it has passed through such a terrible ordeal as our civil war proved to be, where hundreds of thousands laid down their lives, lost their health, gave up opportunities to secure their future, that the Nation might live—the Union be preserved. Every man killed or disabled during his service in the army is a permanent loss to the Nation, and the Nation has a right to depend on him for assistance or support, and the country owes them compensation as far as money can compensate for losses of this kind.

Is the country as a whole made any poorer by the care for all those whom the war left disabled and helpless in the struggle for subsistence, the soldiers crippled by wounds or diseases, or members of their families lacking support, as the Commonwealth only divides a burden equally amongst all those who share alike the benefits gained in the struggle. Otherwise it would be thrown on the shoulders of those who bore the brunt of the war.

In conclusion let us hope that the country will never forget the sacred duty to provide for all who fought and suffered in the war for the preservation of the Union.

by him in the purchase of the necessities of life he may require. Inevitably, a very small circle of shopkeepers are benefited by these payments. These are generally in the neighborhood of posts and forts, and the benefit hardly extends beyond them. The same is true of the officers and men of the navy. The money paid for the building of warships goes into the coffers of the great contractors. It is true that they disburse a large portion of it for wages, but, again, the benefit of the disbursement is circumscribed to certain localities, and the money is speedily gathered up and sent to the money centers. The money paid for food, clothing and arms for the army and navy is short-circuited directly to the money centers. Contractors receive the sums appropriated for rivers and harbors, and pay out some of it in wages, but a large share of it is disposed to congest in the banks, which are the financial reservoirs of the country. So it goes through the hundreds of millions which are appropriated annually by Congress. In each item there is, it is true, considerable disbursement direct to the people generally, but nowhere, nor at any time, is there such a periodic widespread and equitable distribution to the remotest corners and by-ways of the country as is accomplished by the payment of pensions. No matter in what a remote corner a man may be living, no matter how far from the ordinary channels of commerce, his pension certificate reaches him at once, and becomes a part of the ready money available for the use of his neighbors. Let us take the State of Kansas for example. While it is true that a great deal of the money appropriated by Congress will reach Kansas in the purchase of food for the army and navy, its effect is smaller in proportion to the good done by the distribution to the people living around every post-office in the State of the \$90,000,000 which the Government annually distributes to the 41,000 pensioners scattered all over the 82,000 square miles which constitute that great State. For this money the people do not have to wait until their crops are sold, their beef and cattle sent to the market, or some other event occurring but once a year. It is not withheld when the grasshoppers ravage the State, and the drought blights the grain and the pastures. Every three months something like \$1,500,000 is scattered everywhere in the State. Some of it goes into every County and Township, and at once becomes the ready money of the people, enables them to pay off their little debts, and passing from hand to hand in quick succession does ten times the work that the large sums going in at the interval of a year can possibly do. As soon as the money has done its work in each little community of passing from hand to hand in the payment of debts from one to the other, it begins to flow back in rills which gather into creeks and then into great rivers flowing toward the money centers. It will be readily seen that this process is incomparably more helpful and beneficial to the business situation in preventing stagnation and infusing of the activity of life than any other portion of the Government's disbursements.

NO "ADDITIONAL" PENSION.

We want to warn the comrades who are urging making the \$12 per month service pension "additional" to any other pension which may now be received that they are endangering the passage of the service pension bill. All these amendments and variations of a plain, straight, service pension are very dangerous, for they confuse the minds of the people and give members of Congress who are not well disposed toward pension legislation anyway an opportunity to attack the measure and grossly exaggerate its probable cost. The Supreme Court has decided that no man can receive two pensions, and the "additional" pension will be construed under that head. The greatest danger always is in the introduction of any feature which will afford opponents of a bill an opportunity to magnify its probable cost. They will do this with the straight service pension bill, but there we have figures to refute them, and can say with some degree of certainty just what the probable cost of the measure will be. If anything extraneous is brought in which permits of any uncertainty, it gives these opponents their opportunity, which they are going to use to the utmost. Therefore, we strongly advise all the friends of more liberal pension legislation to drop all these schemes, at least for the time being, and unite upon the plain proposition of \$12 per month to every man who served 90 days or more, and was honorably discharged, with the same rate to his widow. This is so simple that the public mind can readily grasp it and comprehend its justice. Anything beyond this will confuse the public mind, and give opportunity for question, doubt and successful opposition.

THE PENSION PLANK.

The following is the pension plank of the Ohio Republican Platform:

"Nearly three thousand millions of dollars paid to pensioners since the Republican party came into power, almost all of it under legislation enacted without a dissenting Republican vote in Congress, but always against Democratic opposition. Let the contrast between the parties in this respect, and yet further liberality be evidenced by the pension legislation of the last Congress."

This plank would have been more symmetrical if it had included a statement that more than \$6,000,000,000 had been paid to the bond-holders during the same time in interest, premiums, etc., on a loan which was less than the donations to the country by the men who served it through the differences between their pay and the wages they would have received at home. It is entirely creditable to the Government that they have dealt thus liberally with the men who lent it money, but it would seem that equal liberality is demanded for those who gave it something much more precious than money.

COMRADE J. J. FITZGERRELL, Past Commander of the Department of New Mexico, writes from Mexico City, where he is now residing, as to the very gratifying manner in which the comrades residing in the Mexican Capital observed Memorial Day. Gen. Powell Clayton, United States Ambassador to Mexico, made the address, and Commander W. G. De Gress conducted the ceremonies. The Mexican Government took an interest in the ceremonies, and the cadets from the Chapultepec Military Academy were present in a body.

"Sally" and the Boys of Co. V.

On the March Through the Carolinas

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Perturbation Among the Comrades Over the Wedding—Presents Begin to Come In.

The Aid did not overstate the deep interest felt throughout the entire camp over the coming wedding.

Despite the earnest protests of Gen. Modigliani to be allowed to go forward with the advance against Johnston, the General in command decided that the brigade had endured such hardships in the march through the Carolinas, and had suffered so severely at Beaufort, that it should be allowed to remain in reserve at Goddard while other troops, whose service had not been so hard nor so recent, should take the front. Therefore, the 20th and the Kankakee Prairie Hens were sent into pleasant camps under the flowering magnolias on the banks of the Neuse River, with orders to make themselves as comfortable as possible and get in readiness for any emergency and the time when their services might be needed.

It was a delicious experience for the war-worn boys, who specifically marked their camps as attractive as picnic grounds, with scrupulously clean streets, on either side of which were the companies' shelter tents, generally shaded from the sun by broad-leaved trees. There was no need of fires, except for cooking, and each tent had a plank floor, a most agreeable change from the mud on which the boys had slept during the winter. The officers' tents were even more luxurious, and the parade ground was hard, smooth and clean enough to satisfy the most exacting of inspectors. There was just enough drill and guard duty every day to keep every man thoroughly fit and ready for duty, and the rest of the time was spent in luxurious resting.

For a while it seemed like heaven, just having sunshine and being free from the necessity of wading through mud, pulling out mired trains, and building corduroy roads. It was delicious not to be soaked to the skin every hour by the cold, pelting, bone-piercing showers. For some days the boys worked with a will, making their camp a thing of beauty and a joy forever, and there was no end to the labor and ingenuity they expended in having their surroundings as perfect as hands could make them, and the admiration and envy of the other regiments. But after they had done all their systems were even more luxurious, and the novelty of the situation began to wear off, and the long Spring days spent in lying around even such tents as theirs grew monotonous.

The wedding came as a most agreeable sensation to relieve the sameness of the every-day routine. Every man in the brigade knew and admired Sally, even though quite a number of them had come from the same little town in Sandy. They had had during their three years' service with him. Soldier-like, they were very proud of him and all that he did, and disposed to extol him at the expense of every other fellow in the regiment. They were now remarkably drawn upon. It was astonishing what inconspicuous things had charmed some. A big hulking woodchopper, who swung like a pendulum of a pine tree, and a small, thin, wiry fellow, who was a handkerchief, a beautiful ivory lidded Bible, such as a girl would carry at her first communion. Another had a sandal, and another, and another, and another, watches, chains, rings and brooches; while the smaller articles of wearing apparel, such as silk hose, ribbons, gloves, soft, fine silks and laces were numerous.

They were not, however, thieves, but in the marches whole towns were sometimes evacuated and the houses fired. The boys often put out these fires and carried off the little things left lying about the exterior of the houses. They were that people started to flee, carrying their household goods, and finding them a burden, threw them away. Very naturally, if there was anything in these leavings they would have picked it up with them on the march, they did so.

Pete and Sandy had their two heads together for some time, eagerly discussing some project. Pete held no grudge against the fellow in the army, but he could not help but feel that the fellow who had the two youngsters worshipped the ground Maria walked on.

"You reckon she'll take it?" asked Sandy fearfully as he turned a small round object over in his hand. "It's a little," he added, "an' she might think it ain't worth nothin'."

"Miss Maria would take it all right," asserted Pete, confidently. "She's a good girl, and she knows what she ain't got no place to buy nothin' else, even if we have got money," slapping his pockets with a magnum's air.

"Well, shall we try her?" asked Sandy. "I'll strike her first," replied Pete slowly.

"Well, go on, then," and Sandy thrust the package into Pete's hand. "I'll follow."

thought. As she let the soiled handkerchief drop to the floor, she found a soiled money case in her hand. Upon opening it a set of silver spoons was displayed, of artistic shape and ornamentation.

"Why, they are—solid silver," ejaculated Mrs. Klegg, all her woman's soul going out in ecstasy over the workmanship, much finer than she had ever seen before. "Maria! Anna! do come here!" she called. Just what Pete has brought, a girl who was into voluble raptures over the art treasure.

"Did you ever see anything so perfectly beautiful," said Anna, handling the spoons tenderly. "Why, Sally Watkins's set, that her uncle sent her from New York, and that she made so much fuss over, wasn't more'n jeans to silk along side of these."

"They are fine enough for Miss Lincoln."

"SURE AS YOU ARE A FOOT HIGH, THEY ARE FOR YOU," SAID PETE, GRINNING WITH DELIGHT.

or Queen Victoria," murmured Maria turning them over fondly. "Who are they for, Pete? the girl you are writing to?"

"Sure you are a foot high, they are for you," said Pete, grinning in delight at the sensation his gift had created.

His shoulder appeared his partner's face wreathed in a smile which reached from one ear to the other.

"Yes, Maria, they are yours if you will have them, and we might just as well give them to you," said Pete, grinning in delight at the sensation his gift had created.

A disturbed thought struck Mrs. Klegg. "Pete," she inquired sternly, "where did you get these things?"

"Why," exclaimed Sandy, "that little red-headed fellow of the Twentieth Corps who died the other day gave them to me. He said that he wanted us to have them because we were the only ones that had done anything for him."

"I think they ought to go to his father and mother," said Mrs. Klegg. "You no right to them."

"Well, there can't be much in it that is worth anything," said Anna, as she passed the package up to the floor. Just then Mrs. Klegg caught the end of the package whirling into the air, and she snatched it up, and, holding it in a shaking, shimmering length of white tulle!

Anna gave a scream of joyous surprise, while Maria clasped her hands and looked ecstatically at the soft, filmy stuff as it lay along the kitchen floor, and over the broken-backed dining table, to pick up the dainty folds.

"It really is, isn't it?" breathed Maria, as her fingers slid along the double fold. "Certain sure," cooed Anna, as she held the tulle up against Maria's dark hair. "Good and plenty, too," she added as she measured the length with her eye. "Isn't it a regular Ligh and the ravens sort of a happy marriage?"

"Well, what in the world are you two girls talking about?" asked Mrs. Klegg. "You act like a couple of 'innocents.' What is the stuff good for? It looks mighty pretty, but, law, it wouldn't make good mosquito net, even."

Maria and Anna were almost hysterical in their happiness, but they managed to explain themselves.

"You see, Ma, this is what they make wedding veils of," said Maria, as she carefully folded the tulle back on the board. And it really looks most providential—well—of course Providence isn't round furnishin' girls with wedding veils," she said with a gay laugh, "but Providence seems to have known that there was a girl round in New York who needed a wedding garment and has been doing his best to help her out."

"Wedding garment," expostulated Mrs. Klegg. "Now, Maria, you know your pa wouldn't let you get married in a dress made out of that stuff. Why, it wouldn't be decent. It ain't no thicker than the stuff that them women wear in the pictures of the Sultan's wives. Now, you just put it right away, or I'll go and have no girl of mine disgrace herself that way."

Mrs. Klegg was really much worked up before the laughing girls told her why they were so "tickled." She was just put it right away, or I'll go and have no girl of mine disgrace herself that way."

As Co. Q was finishing supper the stentorian voice of Corp'l Yawman roared out: "O, yes, O, yes! Come into court! All the qualified voters of this here school district will now assemble in a mass-meeting."

"Hello, what's eatin' you now, Yawp?" inquired Sim Dickensheets, the chronic snarler of the company. "Goin' to hold a primary?"

"That's what we are," answered the Corporal. "Goin' to express our opinion and ideas as free and independent citizens of this great country on earth."

"Where've you got all that freedom and independence from, Yawp? I ain't seen none of it since I enlisted back in Indiana; I ain't dared say my soul even was my own for high on to three years now, but've been ordered about by every shoulder strap and stripe from the General down to the lowest water-carrying Corporal, such as you are, Yawp."

"O, you're always grumblin', Sim," replied the Corporal, good humoredly. "Your folks never fit. You'll be kicking when you get to heaven, about them giv' you a last year's halo."

"I've had good reason to grumble. I wasn't born to be no man's slave and driven to the wall by a bunch of fools."

"Don't know any man in the company who's done less slavin' and drudgin' than you, Sim. You've managed to skip most everything, except this last march, and you went to heaven, if you hadn't been caught unawares, when you was sent back to us as Savary."

"That's right. Blackguard a man about his poor health, just because you wear stripes. If it wasn't for them stripes I'd just as soon be a blackguard as you."

"I ain't a blackguardin' you, and you know it, Sim. Come now, Sim. Have a loosed interval in your growlin'. This army business is nearly over now."

"They'll find some way to keep us in as long as we live," growled Dickensheets. "No, they won't. They'll only be too glad to get shot of feedin' and clothin' 'em."

Yawman started to retort, but was too full of his own dignity to do so. "Now, this war is about over at last, when we'll all go back home, and be free and independent citizens of the great State of Maryland, and we ought to begin learnin' how to right away. The Executive Committee of this here school district have decided to call a mass-meeting of all the qualified voters, to consider matters of great importance."

"A mass-meeting," yelled the boys, eager for anything which would be a diversion. "Yes; let's have one. What's it like?"

"The committee will begin," said Corp'l Yawman, who had been a good deal of a political worker in his township before enlistment, "by calling the Hon. Montgomery Scruggs, of Hoop-Pole Township, to the chair."

Monty ruffled up his hair, as he had seen speakers do at home, composed his face to a severe expression, and took his seat with becoming dignity on a park barrel at the end of the company street.

"Comrades of Co. Q, I thank you for the honor," he began.

"These that, Monty," admonished Corp'l Yawman, "is a citizens' meeting. No soldier racket in it."

"Excuse me, I forgot myself," Monty corrected himself. "Friends and fellow-citizens, I thank you for the honor."

"O, get down to business," admonished the Corporal. "We must ascertain how you begin to talk about yourself. The Chairman will state the objects of the meeting."

"O, get down to business," admonished the Corporal. "We must ascertain how you begin to talk about yourself. The Chairman will state the objects of the meeting."